

3/1

**A LETTER from the Lord Bishop of London,
to the Incumbents of all Churches and Chappels in his
Diocess, concerning their not using any new Forms of
Doxology, and the Reading the Common-Prayer at
least once a Month.**

REVEREND BRETHREN,

THERE is an Instance of your Care and Duty which I conceive my self at this time highly obliged to offer, and you to regard, as necessary for the Preservation of the very Foundations of our Faith. Some Persons seduc'd, I fear by the strong Delusions of Pride and Self-conceit, have lately published new Forms of Doxology, entirely agreeable to those of some Ancient Hereticks, who impiously denied a Trinity of Persons in the Unity of the God-head. I do therefore warn, and Charge it upon your Souls, as you hope to obtain Mercy from God the Father thro' the Merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, and by the Sanctification of the Holy Ghost, Three Persons and One God Blessed for ever, that you imploy your best Endeavours to prevail with your several Flocks to have a great Abhorrence for the above-mentioned new Forms, and particularly that you do not suffer the same ever to be used, either in your Churches, or in any Schools where you are able to prevent that most pernicious abuse.

I Take this occasion farther to remind You of a Branch of your Duty, the Neglect of which has given just occasion of Offence, viz. That once a Month at least in your own Person, and in the Church or Chappel where you are Incumbent, (unless absent or dispens'd with by the Ordinary) you are bound to read the Common-Prayer, and to Administer, if there be occasion, each of the Sacraments, and other Rites of the Church, in such Order, Manner and Form, as in and by the Book of Common-Prayer is appointed.

You may remember that about three Years ago, I wrote to you with an affectionate Concern on this Subject. It was my design at that time not only to advertise you of the Penalty of *Five Pounds* for every such Neglect duly prov'd by the Oath of two Credible Witnesses before two Justices of Peace, but to clear effectually from a loud, tho' undeserv'd blame, such of you in particular, as (according to the Judgment of Discretion, allow'd you both by the Canons and His Majesty's Injunctions enforcing the same) do use the Bidding Form of Prayer before your Sermon. The same reasons do still subsist both in respect of your Duty and Danger, as also of your Obligations to give convincing proofs upon all proper occasions of the Sincerity of your Loyalty to our Sovereign Lord King **GEORGE**, and of your Prayers for Him, which cannot be better express'd than in the pious and devout Words of our Church. I may add others, which to me appear very worthy of your Attention, as that your reading the Prayers your selves will tend both to confirm your Flocks in that reverend Esteem for them, which they most justly deserve, and to abate the Clamours of such as speak evil of this way of Worship; and moreover you will thereby give (which ever was, but never more needed than now) a practical Testimony of your steadfast adherence to that Form of sound Words, which is contain'd in these Holy Offices.

THE Lecturers cannot but know the same Duty is incumbent on them, and what the Penalty is in case of Default.

To God's Gracious Protection I commit you; and am,

REVEREND BRETHREN,

Your very affectionate Brother,

John
Joh: London.